



## NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy New Class to Assist with Prescribed Burns

Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy has added the new class RX-310 Introduction to Fire Effects to its list of classes.

Gov. Pete Ricketts said, "I am glad to see this class provided. Safe land-management burning is important to Nebraska."

In the spring of the year, farmers and ranchers frequently use fire as a means of clearing vegetative growth from their property. We see many of these burns every year, they can also be extremely dangerous and even deadly when not appropriately planned and completed. Sometimes these fires become uncontrolled and burn unintended land and property.

When properly done, these prescribed burns also known as "land-management burning" in Nebraska, can be beneficial to the property owner and the land.

The first thing in the title of this new class is RX (prescription).

Academy Incident Commander Weston Burch said, "Most individuals would never think of taking a prescribed medication without the knowledge and direction of someone who knows the need and impact of the prescription. To be safely performed, prescribed burns should be directed by someone who has knowledge of the impact of the fire. Many factors are involved in how a prescription drug impacts a person, likewise, many factors are involved in the impact a prescribed burn will have."

Nebraska State Statute 81-520.05 lists several of the elements that impact these burns and the permit process. Some of the elements are; the objective of the burn, location and topography of the burn area, types and condition of vegetative material in the target area, natural and manmade firebreaks that are to be provided, equipment that will be on hand, identification of roads and habitations that may be affected by the smoke, wind and weather conditions. Additional information may be prescribed by the fire chief of the local fire department where the burn is to take place.

The RX-310 class is designed to assist fire service to understand not only the fire effects, but the effects of treatments on these fires, and the impact of current information, changing technologies, and the needs of students who may be tasked with response and prevention of wildland fires through a proper understanding of the factors that impact them.

"It has taken several years of effort to bring this important class to the Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy." Burch said, "We are excited to offer this class and are working to add more RX (prescribed burn) training classes in the future."

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